Northiam,

February 14th, 1907.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rye Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Seventh Annual Report upon the health of the Rye Rural District.

The population of the District I have estimated at 7,121.

There were in all 104 deaths during the year 1906 in the District, but of the deaths in the Rye Union Infirmary, seven were of persons who did not previously belong to the Rural District, so for statistical purposes we are left with 97 deaths—equal to a death rate of 13·6 per thousand. 41 of the deaths were among persons aged 65 years or over.

There were 2 deaths from zymotic diseases—Scarlatina and Diphtheria each accounting for one: so the zymotic death rate was ·28 per thousand. There was also one death in which Influenza was certified as a contributory cause.

There were 14 deaths from Pulmonary Phthisis, and 3 from other Tubercular diseases so that the Tubercle death rate was the high one of 2·4 per thousand.

Diseases of the Respiratory organs accounted for 7 deaths which give a Respiratory death rate of nearly 1 per thousand.

There were 4 deaths from Cancer—equal to a death rate of ·5 per thousand.

Fifteen deaths from affections of the heart.

Four deaths were caused by accidents, and there was one suicide.

During the year 159 births were registered, giving a birth rate of 22·3 per thousand, and there were 15 deaths of children under 1 year, giving an infant mortality rate of 94·3 per thousand births. Of these 15 deaths, 10 were at ages under 1 week.

The following cases of Infectious disease were notified: Diphtheria, 19 cases, all in February and March, and in Beckley: a report upon the epidemic was made in March, and the sanitary defects then referred to have since been remedied.

Erysipelas, 1 case, in Brede, not of a severe type.

Scarlatina, 34 cases: there was an epidemic in the Rye Union Workhouse which accounted for 23 cases, and which apparently was started by infection from cases in Rye; there were also 6 cases in Playden and 1 each

in Iden and Rye Foreign at about the same time. In May, 1 case was reported in a caravan at Northiam, but its origin was obscure, as was the origin of 2 cases in one house in Northiam in November and December.

Enteric Fever, 2 cases in Beckley: one of these was certainly imported, and neither of them was due to defective sanitation or contaminated water supplies; the water was analysed in each case and found good.

Disinfectants are supplied to each of the village Post Offices for distribution as required, and sulphur fumigation is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector upon the termination of infectious cases.

The building of the Isolation Hospital is now completed and it should prove a boon to the District when furnished and ready for use; it is situated in the parish of Udimore.

In the event of an outbreak of Smallpox a suitable marquee is available as a temporary hospital, and arrangements are in existence for a suitable site on Cadboro' Farm in the parish of Rye.

There are no polluted streams and no offensive trades.

The Bakehouses, Slaughter-houses, Dairies, Windmills, and Quarries in the District have been inspected, and found to comply with the Acts of Parliament referring to them.

I have systematically inspected the District and find that the Sewerage systems in Northiam, Peasmarsh, Winchelsea, and Icklesham are working satisfactorily. About 100 yards of a sewer in Icklesham have been relaid.

The rest of the District is provided with cesspools. At Rye Harbour the contents of the cesspools are carried away in a sewage cart from the neighbourhood of the houses to an isolated spot.

As regards Water supplies. The Water Tower in the grounds of the Rye Union is completed, and supplies water to the Workhouse, and to portions of Playden and Rye Foreign. Winchelsea has its own water works, but the difficulty with regard to the blocking of the pipe from Newgate Spring has recurred, and the suction apparatus had to be applied to the pipe; in this way the Town was kept supplied with water, but the pipe has evidently sunk in places and should be re-laid.

The rest of the District is dependent upon wells and springs for its water supply. At Northiam, owing to the generosity of Miss Margesson, a well has been sunk upon the Village Green, which yields a good supply of very good water.

I have the honour to remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER WYNNE,

Medical Officer of Health, Rye Rural District.

THE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

RYE.

REPORT

OF

MR. WALTER WYNNE,

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

YEAR 1906.

Northiam,
14th February, 1907.

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